

**MINUTES
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT TASK FORCE
REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 13, 2022**

Present: Mayor Ben Florsheim; Majority Leader Gene Nocera; Minority Leader Phil Pessina; Pamela Steele; Cynthia Clegg; Rev. Moses Harvill; Diana Doyle; Brig Smith; Joe Fazzino; Kevin Elak; Bobby Knoll Peterson; Carl Erlacher; Rev. Robyn Anderson; Alice Diaz

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Pamela Steele made a MOTION to approve the June 22, 2022 special meeting and Cynthia Clegg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business

A. Presentation by Applicants

i. MARC Community Resources

MARC Community Resources gave a presentation on renovating their facility to better accommodate the needs of those they serve, expanding employment and other programs, and improving the spaces available to the MARC community at large.

ii. Community Health Center Inc. (Vinnie's Jump & Jive and Middletown Family Wellness Center)

Community Health Center Inc. gave a presentation on redesigning and renovating the Middletown Family Wellness Center (FWC), located at 635 Main Street, Middletown to create a multipurpose space that would accommodate the evening programs of Vinnie's Jump and Jive and daytime programs at FWC.

iii. A.M. Hart Parenting Consulting, LLC

A.M. Hart Parenting Consulting, LLC gave a presentation on holding a three-day therapeutic workshop, which will be held five separate times throughout the year. The workshops will focus on trauma and allow the participants to fully immerse

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themselves in the experience to achieve awareness, clarity, support and healing.

iv. Middletown United Fathers Inc.

Middletown United Fathers Inc. gave a presentation on potentially purchasing a 25-30 HP tractor for the Rev. Douglas E. Lawrence Community Garden. The garden supports the financial well-being of the low to moderate-income family participants by teaching them to become self-sustaining by growing their own vegetables and in turn saving money through “sweat equity.”

v. NHCPA Riverbend, LLC

NHCPA Riverbend, LLC was unable to give their presentation and will be invited back to another meeting.

B. Discussion of Pending Applications

i. 339 Main LLC

Brig Smith introduced 339 Main LLC and explained that this applicant is looking to redesign and reconstruct the interior of the Bob’s building to facilitate use of premises for local businesses and individuals looking to work or live downtown. 339 Main LLC requested \$850,000 from the ARPA funds and the working group recommended not funding this project.

Bobby Knoll Peterson made a motion not to fund this project and Phil Pessina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. Community Health Center, Inc.

Brig Smith introduced CHC and explained that this project is to increase awareness in mental health needs for Middletown youth and students. CHC requested \$249,455.50 and the working group recommended \$200,000.00

Phil Pessina made a motion to approve the working group’s recommendation and Rev. Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

iii. Middlesex Redemption Center

Brig Smith introduced the Middlesex Redemption Center application and explained that the working group had follow-up questions for the applicant. The applicant answered the follow up questions, however the working group has not had time to review the answers.

Phil Pessina made a motion to table this project until the next meeting and Cynthia

Clegg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

iv. Connecticut Home Collective, PLLC

Brig introduced the Connecticut Home Collective application to the task force. He explained that this project is an educational curriculum that would help and highlight the BIPOC community. Connecticut Home Collective requested \$75,000 and the working group recommended \$75,000.

Bobbye made a motion to approve the funding and Rev. Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

v. Downtown Business District

Brig introduced the Downtown Business District's application and explained that they would like to do façade improvements to Main Street. The DBD requested \$500,000 and the working group recommended \$300,000.

Phil Pessina made a motion to approve the working group's recommendation and Gene Nocera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Old Business

a. Report of Current Expenses and Balances

Brig explained that about half of the money is already appropriated and about \$10.4 million of the ARPA funds are remaining.

b. Report from Water and Sewer

Joe Fazzino updated the Task Force on upcoming water and sewer work. He explained that the preliminary assessment and preliminary design for basins 25, 26 and 27 are completed. Water & Sewer is looking at getting a proposal for an engineering service for water main replacement work. He reports that they are also doing inspections of easements and clearing and opening manholes to look for where the infiltration may be coming from.

6. Other

Gene Nocera brought up the additional funds that will go to Cross Street Training and Academic Center. Cross Street will be issued an additional \$600,000 to fund the second half of their project.

Bobbye Knoll Peterson made a motion to approve the additional funds and Phil Pessina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

7. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn made by Bobbye Knoll Peterson and seconded by Gene Nocera. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting ended at 12:47 p.m.